Findings On King Will Be Released

The Justice Department is preparing to release its findings from an eight-month investigation into the Memphis murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a member of the investigative team said yesterday.

Michael Shaheen, in charge of the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility, said the report that was compiled by a team of Justice Department attorneys should be ready for release "within a couple of days."

Shaheen's comments came as the House Rules Committee decided to give the House Assassinations Committee a chance to stay alive at least two more months after being assured individuals' rights will be protected.

Shaheen, a former Como, Miss., mayor, would not divulge any of the findings he said would be forthcoming, but a Justice Department spokesman said: "It will make interesting reading. I don't know that I would stay up late at night in anticipation of it though."

The spokesman indicated the report will not implicate anyone except convicted slayer James Earl Ray, who is now an inmate at Brushy Mountain State Prison, in the 1968 murder in Memphis.

When Shaheen and a team of assistants visited Memphis in June, he said the inquiry would be "exhaustive," covering circumstances of the murder itself, various murder conspiracy theories and the FBI's harassment of King and later investigation of his death.

He said it would involve study of every King file in all 59 FBI field offices in the United States.

The inquiry was begun at the request of a committee headed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho). The Church committee had disclosed the FBI's harassment of King for 15 to 16 years under the direction of former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Shaheen said his team's findings were submitted to former U. S. Atty. Gen. Edward Levi shortly before the change in presidential administrations. But he said Levi turned them over to new Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell.

Levi could not be reached for comment, and efforts to contact Bell also were unsuccessful.

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Phil Moss
P. O. Box 4803
Memphis, TN 38104